Enroll in Elon’s Physician Assistant Studies program and in 27 months you’ll graduate prepared to care for all patients as individuals. The full-time program has been carefully designed so students learn to care for the whole person — body, mind and spirit.

Elon’s primary care-focused program employs a holistic approach to health care that emphasizes medical knowledge, interpersonal communication skills, patient care, professionalism and practice-and systems-organized learning.

You’ll graduate ready to work in one of the most in-demand professions in the nation. The demand for PAs is expected to grow 30 percent by 2020, much faster than the average for other occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

Choose to work in traditional office settings, hospitals, academic medical centers or public clinics. The median annual salary of physician assistants is $93,300 per year.

An Accredited Program
The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Elon University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Elon University. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program’s ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

#2 best job in America, according to CNNMoney
Keri Norris
CLASS OF 2015

Keri has always been a mountain girl at heart. She grew up in the small town of Spruce Pine, N.C., graduated from Appalachian State University and can’t imagine living anywhere else.

She also knows rural communities like her hometown often have a shortage of medical personnel, and from an early age she admired the dedication of the providers she encountered and felt driven to join the “medical family.”

As an undergraduate, Keri majored in exercise science and quickly discovered her love for the physician assistant profession while shadowing a PA.

“I love that, as a PA, you can work in family medicine, ER, gynecology, pediatrics, etc. As a PA, I will also have the ability to spend a lot of time with patients, which is very important to me. Being a physician assistant means that I must commit myself to others, have an inborn compassion that radiates to those around me, and become a lifelong student.”

After completing her undergraduate work, Keri worked full-time with a local family physician. She drew blood, started IVs, assisted in dermatology procedures, processed labs, assisted in women’s health visits and more.

After completing her master’s degree in physician assistant studies, Keri plans to pursue a career in family medicine. She has no doubt her work will lead her to medically underserved areas.

“Growing up in a poverty stricken area has taught me to become a servant of others. I have realized that, above all, patients want to feel like someone listens and cares. I have found great fulfillment in being the listener or encourager.”

“After Elon, I want to pursue a career in family medicine. I also want to return to medically underserved areas because that is the source of my passion.”
Elon’s PA curriculum incorporates a variety of strategies to engage students with different learning styles.

- Human anatomy is illuminated through exercises in body painting. As groups of students collaborate to reproduce the vasculature or musculature on the “canvas” that is a classmate’s body, the photographs in the anatomical atlas come to life.

- Pharmacology is a vast, complex topic for all student learners. Review sessions conducted in popular game formats (Pictionary, Clue, etc.) make learning fun for students and solidify core concepts.

- Simulated clinical activities during the first year of the program prepare students for clinical experiences. Students develop a solid foundation of data gathering and patient communication skills through encounters with trained community members who serve as standardized patients. They also strengthen diagnostic and therapeutic skills through learning and assessment sessions with medical task trainers and simulation mannequins.
Tyler Roper
CLASS OF 2015

As a University of North Carolina at Wilmington undergraduate, Tyler wasn’t sure what the future held. What title? What degree? He knew he wanted to spend his professional life working with patients in a clinical setting, but the specifics were up for grabs.

When he wasn’t studying, Tyler spent free time volunteering at the local health department in the HIV/AIDS and STD Outreach Program. Around that time, he met another student in a microbiology course who was pursuing a career as a physician assistant. After many conversations and plenty of research, Tyler set his sights on a career as a PA and quickly discovered Elon’s core values and commitment to global citizenship were an ideal match for his own.

As he begins his Elon studies, Tyler already has an eye toward his future. He’s excited about returning to Ecuador, where he traveled as an undergraduate, to work with underserved Andean communities. And ultimately, his journey will take him back home, to western North Carolina, where he plans to practice primary care medicine.

“I set my sights on a career as a PA and quickly discovered Elon’s core values and commitment to global citizenship were an ideal match.”
Expert Faculty

The faculty has a combined 30 years of full-time PA education teaching experience and 60+ years of full-time clinical experience representing all four primary care disciplines (pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, family practice and internal medicine), and clinical subspecialties. In addition to the principal faculty members, two medical directors and a client and simulated patient coordinator work with students.

PA faculty members are active in their profession beyond their work at the university. Professors regularly publish articles in scholarly journals, serve as leaders on professional boards, are members of health advisory committees for local schools, practice at free clinics for low-income patients, and are frequent presenters at national conferences. All share a love for teaching, mentoring and engaging in service, research and leadership.
Elon’s PA medical directors bridge connections between the program and the surrounding medical community. Medical directors work with local medical providers who serve as preceptors to enhance the educational experience for PA students.

Andy Lamb  
ELON PA MEDICAL DIRECTOR

“I have worked with young people for the nearly 29 years I’ve served as an internal medicine specialist. I have taught and mentored scores of high school and college students as well as medical, nursing, nurse practitioner, physician assistant and residents in training. I have a responsibility to ensure that future generations are as prepared as possible.”

Valerie Leschber  
ELON PA MEDICAL DIRECTOR

“As co-medical director for the Greensboro area, I advocate the role of physician assistants in my medical community of Cone Health and LeBauer to be integral players in the delivery of exceptional health care.”
Elon’s bold curriculum integrates hands-on clinical practica into a strong physical and social science foundation. The PA program begins in January, which means graduates enter the job market at a different time than most schools.

The Elon PA program will prepare you for success and empower you to decide how you’d like to apply your expertise. The coursework focuses on engaged learning experiences and promotes close relationships with faculty mentors. You’ll find large and small group discussion, hands-on clinical skills labs, simulated patient experiences, lecture and patient scenario discussions are a regular part of the learning experience.

As the program progresses, patient scenarios and simulated patient experiences increase in complexity. The culmination is an Advanced Clinical Reasoning course that builds on learner-centered models by guiding students to reapply knowledge and build competence in all areas of the Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession.

The required Master’s Project supports and promotes professional development accessing, critically appraising and applying the best available evidence to address a research, patient care or policy question relevant to physician assistant practice or education.

The clinical education phase consists of seven required rotations:
- Primary care
- Pediatrics
- Inpatient medicine
- General surgery
- Emergency medicine
- Women’s health
- Behavioral medicine

Students choose two electives, which include dermatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, behavioral medicine and other fields of medical study.

The majority of clinical sites are located in central North Carolina. Learn more about the course schedule and find course descriptions by visiting www.elon.edu/pa.
Brittany Ramsey  
CLASS OF 2015

As an emergency medical technician in Lexington County, S.C., Brittany often found herself frustrated when she’d take a patient to the hospital, then hand the patient over to emergency room doctors and nurses.

“You’d never hear about the patient, or how they’re doing, unless you transported them again,” she says.

Brittany was drawn to work as an EMT by the hands-on patient-care aspect, and that’s also what prompted the University of South Carolina alumna to shadow a physician assistant to learn more about the field.

“I loved that the physician assistant I worked with spent so much time with the patients, going room-to-room and talking with them,” Brittany says. “That’s how I knew this is what I want to do.” She chose the university after visiting campus and meeting some of Elon’s outstanding faculty.

After graduation, Brittany plans to enter the U.S. Naval Reserve as a physician assistant, but she wants to practice as a civilian, too. “The part I think I’ll enjoy the most about being a physician assistant is talking with patients and helping them improve their quality of life,” she says.

“The part I think I’ll enjoy the most about being a physician assistant is talking with patients and helping them improve their quality of life.”
World Class Facilities
THE GERALD L. FRANCIS CENTER

The Gerald L. Francis Center, which opened in 2012, was designed to meet the specifications of School of Health Sciences faculty and staff. The state-of-the-art facility includes 50,000-square-feet dedicated to the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program and the Doctor of Physical Therapy program (DPT).

The building has been designed to be a premier teaching and learning facility. Dedicated PA teaching space includes:

> Two classrooms
> A clinical skills laboratory
> Five simulated exam rooms
> A cardiopulmonary auscultation lab
> Fresh tissue/clinical procedure lab
> Five small group study rooms
> Additional equipment includes a Harvey™ Cardiopulmonary simulator, high definition cameras for use with clinical skills examinations, and state-of-the-art classroom technology.

PA faculty, students and staff benefit from an energized and collaborative relationship with Elon’s DPT program. The two departments frequently engage in shared learning opportunities and benefit from common facilities, including a human donor anatomy lab, computer lab, student lounge areas, fitness center and locker facility.
The PA program enrolls a class of 36 students each January. Apply online using the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) (portal.caspa.org). Admission is selective — visit www.elon.edu/pa for a complete list of requirements and details about the admissions process.
About Elon

**NATIONAL RANKINGS**

**ENROLLMENT AND LOCATION**
Elon’s 5,559 undergraduate and 706 graduate students come from 47 states, the District of Columbia, multiple U.S. territories and 49 other countries. Located in Elon, North Carolina, Elon’s 620-acre historic campus is a designated botanical garden. Elon is 30 minutes east of Greensboro and 45 minutes west of Chapel Hill and Durham.

**MAJORS AND DEGREES**
Elon offers more than 60 majors leading to the bachelor of arts, bachelor of fine arts or bachelor of science degrees. Master’s degrees are awarded in business administration, interactive media, physician assistant studies and education. Elon offers a doctorate in physical therapy, and the Elon University School of Law offers the J.D. degree.